

St. James United Church

A Community of Friends in Faith

330 Elizabeth Ave, St. John's, NL, A1B 1T9

Celebration of Worship for February 11, 2024



The people of St. James United Church are eternal seekers who value diversity within our congregation, city and all of society. We affirm each person's uniqueness and believe that all persons deserve to be valued, treated with equity, and respected. We are all children of God, walking many paths of spirituality.

Further, we proudly and publicly declare our commitment to practice radical hospitality and strive in every way to provide a safe and supportive place for all persons to participate in the worship and work of our church.

Guided by the teachings of Jesus, we embrace all persons, regardless of creed, race, age, ability, economic status, cultural and ethnic background, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, or any other difference that has led to marginalization or oppression.

February 11, 2024: Transfiguration Sunday
(Last Sunday after Epiphany)

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Leading Music: Amy Dalziel, Bob Rose and the Senior Choir
Ushers: Guy and Julie Hollett, Marilyn Adams,
Jean Thompson and Susan Pike

*Please rise in body or in spirit where there is an *.
Print in **bold** indicates that the portion is read or sung by everyone.*

We Come to Worship

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

*We offer greetings in Inuktitut, French and Swahili as we gather as a baptized community.
We light a candle as a sign of Christ's presence.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP

*We give thanks for the land and the Indigenous peoples who continue
to steward it; we also commit to be an inclusive community for all.*

INTROIT: "How Good Lord to Be Here" (*Voices United 103, v. 1*)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Angel choirs are long silent and the magi's star is far from view.

But there is still light.

On a mountain-top Jesus shines brightly before his friends.

And he is still shining, our hearts glimmering with holy light.

On this Sunday before we walk in the gathering shadows of Lent,

may we celebrate the light that shines within and around us.

OPENING PRAYER (*in unison*)

Holy Presence: we draw near, seeking to rest in your grace,

and so on this day we follow Jesus up the mountain

where he shines in glory and you proclaim him your Beloved.

We thank you for a glimpse of who he is, and more than that,

for a glimpse of who we are, the same words echoing in us,

and feeling that same accepting glory embrace us as well.

Through the wisdom of your Spirit, may we grasp your words

and so come to live out their fullest meaning in all that we do.

We pray with Jesus, your Child and our Companion. Amen.

* **HYMN:** “We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding (VU 104)

We Share with Love

OUR LIFE AND WORK: *We share what is going on in our community.*

OFFERTORY: *There are many ways to share financial gifts with St. James United Church. If you prefer not to place a contribution in the offering plate, you may contribute by pre-authorized remittance (PAR), via e-transfer (email treasurer@stjamesuc.org), sent through the website (www.stjamesuc.org), mailed to the church office or dropped into our secure mailbox. In whatever way you give, the community is grateful.*

* **PRESENTATION HYMN:** *We dedicate our offerings to the word of God’s love as we sing “When Heaven’s Bright with Mystery” VU 84, v 4*

When heaven’s bright with mystery and stars still lead an unknown way, when love still lights a gentle path when courts of power can hold no sway, there with the Magi let us kneel, our gifts to share, God’s world to heal.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS: *We welcome the following people into membership with St. James: Linda Andrews, Berna Aslan, Gail Colbourne, Brian Madore, Grace Marcoux and Jennifer Whitfield.*

Commitment of New Members and Congregational Commitment

... As your siblings in Christ, we rejoice in your gifts and pledge to you our love and support.

With God’s help, together we will live out the mission and ministry of Christ’s church.

Profession of Faith (Voices United p. 918) and Official Welcome

* **HYMN:** “Take, O Take me As I Am” (*More Voices 85*)

We Listen and Respond

READINGS: *As each reading concludes, please say, “Thanks be to God.”*

2 Cor. 4:3-6; Mk 9:2-9; “The Carrying” by Ada Limón (*The Carrying*)

ANTHEM: “Ave Verum Corpus” (W.A. Mozart)

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

* **HYMN:** “All Who Hunger” (*Voices United 460*)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Jesus welcomed all to share meals with him. In this he made it known that all people shine in God's love. Here at this and many tables in our community, we experience that same renewing gift.

We share this meal knowing that God is within and around us.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Open your hearts. **We open them to the Holy.**

Let us give thanks. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is good to give thanks to you, Maker of heaven and earth. At the beginning of time, light blazed forth from your splendour, and the cosmos was born – stars, quasars, planets and moons, and the gift of life in all its dazzling array. Among the living you made and called humankind, imprinting us with your image and calling us to bear your presence in the world. Too often we hid your image within us, and yet you continued to invite us into relationship and fulfilled your mission by calling a people for yourself, sending them to bear your light in the world. In gratitude, we join with the whole company of heaven in their hymn of praise to your name:

O Holy, holy, holy God. O God of time and space. All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace. Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sing your praise. And blessed is the one who comes and bears your name always!

Hosanna to you, Holy God, and blessed is your Child Jesus whom you sent in your name. In him we not only see the fullness of your glory, but in his life of mercy and love he helped all that he met to see again your image shining in them. For this we thank you and are grateful too that as his journey to Jerusalem drew near, Jesus took his closest friends up a high mountain where you pulled back the veil of heaven and revealed your light shining through him. We catch a glimpse of that light now as we gather at this table.

Here we remember how on the night before his death he gathered at table with his friends. During the meal, he took bread, gave you thanks, broke it and shared it with them, saying: "Take, eat; this is my body, given for you." In the same way at the end of the meal he took the cup, gave you thanks, and shared it with them saying: "Drink from this, all of you; this is the sign of the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you eat and drink, do so in memory of me."

In his memory, we offer you our work and our lives, the power of his death and resurrection imaged in our lives of mercy and love:

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

Open our hearts to the gift of your Spirit present here, revealed in bread and wine. Make them to be for us the living presence of your Beloved Child, that we too may be his beloved, one family in that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters. Make us one with him and each other, one in ministry as we are called in his name to shine with his transforming love in the world.

Creator God, we praise you, through Your Word made flesh,
in the power of your life-giving Spirit, now and forever.

Amen, amen, O Holy One, Hosanna and Amen.

PRAYER OF JESUS (*Voices United, p.921*)

SHARING IN COMMUNION

This is the Bread of Life and this is the Cup of Love.

Come and be nourished. **Thanks be to God.**

Everyone is welcome to share communion – all ages, beliefs, identities and life experiences. Come to the front to receive the bread and grape juice (in a glass). Consume both before returning to your pew. Please let us know if you need the gluten free option. If you're unable to come to the front, someone will bring communion to you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gift of grace and goodness, we give thanks that we have been refreshed at your table through the illuminating presence of your Beloved Child Jesus. Also called to be your beloved children, send us forth to shine with your peace and love, rejoicing always in your Holy Spirit. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

HYMN: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" (*Voices United 264*)

COMMISSIONING IN PREPARATION FOR LENT

With the Season of Lent beginning on Sunday, this blessing and sending points us toward the upcoming forty-day journey of reflection and prayer.

POSTLUDE

St. James United Church

Chair of Council:	Michelle Skinner
Minister:	Rev. James Ravenscroft
Minister Emeritus:	Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown
Music Director:	Amy Dalziel
Associate Music Director:	Bob Rose
Technology Support:	Jake Thompson
Office Administrator:	Stephanie Harnum
Church Custodian:	Bruce Winsor

Office: 722-1881, x200; Email: info@stjamesuc.org;

Emergency Cellphone: 351-0983; Website: www.stjamesuc.org



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WiFi: StJamesGuest WiFi Password: StJamesUC

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Pub Theology: Tonight, Thursday, Feb 8 at 7:00 pm, it's time for Pub Theology at the Guv'nor Pub. Come for a time of conversation about faith, spirituality and life's big questions. All are welcome!

Ash Wednesday Worship, 7 pm on February 14: Start Lent with prayer this coming Wednesday as we gather for worship and receive a cross traced in ash as a sign of our call to repentance and renewal. We will worship together in the chancel.

Looking for photos: Calling all photographers. We are looking for photographs that we can include as the front cover of future bulletins. Feel free to submit your photos of nature, still-life arrangements, seasonal celebrations and the like. Avoid photographs of people. We would need their permission to publish their likeness.

Worship Leadership Training: Have you ever wondered about why we worship as we do or been curious about how a worship service is put together? Have you considered helping lead a worship service or helped in one in the past and want to hone your skills? Then come take part in a four week worship leadership course when you will learn about worship, what makes up a service, how to write a prayer and even how to prepare a sermon. The sessions will be from 1 to 4:30 pm on the Saturdays of Lent (Feb. 24, March 2, 9 and 16).

UCW Meeting: on Monday, February 12 from 2PM to 4PM in the Fellowship Room

Volunteer Opportunity: Are you someone who tries to make sure everyone is included? Do you believe strongly in St. James as a congregation where people of all identities, backgrounds, sexualities and experiences belong? Then you should consider joining our Diversity Committee. Please contact Paul Walsh at jpaulwalsh1209@yahoo.com

Pancake Supper: will be held on Tuesday, February 13 at 6pm. Come enjoy all the favourites; pancakes, berries, beans and sausages, coffee, tea and juice for just \$10 per person (12 years and under \$5). Tickets are available for purchase at the church office or from Aubrey Hill at (709) 726-8306 or Clyde Flight at (709) 722-9935. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Teachers on Wheels will be holding a tutor-training workshop on Saturday, February 10th. If you can read, you can tutor! Call Tom Dawe for details at (709) 738-3975. www.teachersonwheels.ca. St. James Outreach and Action Committee is discerning a future initiative of offering ESL/EFL classes (English as a second or foreign language conversation classes). This is an awesome opportunity to train for that!

Free Income Tax Services: Members of the Association of Chartered Professional Accountants of Newfoundland and Labrador are once again offering free income tax services to senior citizens and low-income residents of the St. John's, Mount Pearl and surrounding areas.

Members have volunteered their time to be available for consultation and assistance in the completion of income tax returns at several public clinics located throughout St. John's and Mount Pearl.

Senior citizens with total personal income of \$35,000 or less and other individuals with income of \$25,000 or less qualify for this free service. The program excludes all persons with self-employment or rental income or income from foreign sources.

For more information or to arrange for an appointment, please call the Association of Chartered Professional Accountants of Newfoundland and Labrador at 753-3090 ext. 201. Please leave a message and your call will be returned within 2 days.

Please note we will start booking appointments Monday, February 5, 2024.